

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 SAJ-01 EB-11

RSR-01 /095 W

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R 250910 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2850

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4475

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: INCREASED IRAQ- SOVIET TIES

1. COURT MINISTER ALAM, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM
SHAH, PRESENTED AMBASSADOR ON 23 JUNE WITH WHAT ALLEGED
TO BE NEW INFORMATION ABOUT IRAQ. ITEMS LISTED WERE
FOLLOWING:

(A) IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED SOVIETS TO SEND EXPERTS
TO HELP REORGANIZE IRAQI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND TO
OVERHAUL GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM.

(B) SOVIETS ARE PLANNING TO HOLD SOON IN BAGHDAD
TRADE UNION CONFERENCE WITH IRAQI TRADE UNION OFFICIALS
LOOKING TO AFFILIATION BETWEEN TRADE UNION COMPONENTS OF
BOTH COUNTRIES.

(C) SOVIETS HAVE 1,000 TECHNICIANS AND ADVISORS IN IRAQ.

(D) IRAQ COMMUNIST PARTY AND BA'ATH PARTY ARE TO
SET UP COALITION GOVERNMENT WHEREIN COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE
MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS AS WELL AS DEPUTIES IN LEGISLATIVE

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BODY.

(E) BY EARLY FALL OF THIS YEAR SOVIETS WILL HAVE GIVEN IRAQIS FOUR TU-22 AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH MISSILES WHICH HAVE RANGE OF UP TO 100 MILES. (ALAM COMMENT: SUCH MISSILES COULD REACH CERTAIN IMPORTANT TARGETS IN IRAN WITHOUT THE AIRCRAFT APPROACHING THE NATIONAL BORDER.)

2. ACTION REQUESTED: SHAH WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT USG HAS ABOVE INFORMATION. THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE APPRAISAL FROM INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. NO COORDINATED STUDY IS NECESSARY, SIMPLY AN INFORMED REACTION.

3. COMMENT: SHAH FEELS THAT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ, IF THEY WERE TO COME TO PASS, WOULD JUSTIFY REFERRING TO IT AS A SATELLITE COUNTRY OF SOVIET UNION. IT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT TO JUDGE WHETHER OR NOT HE SIMPLY WORRIES ABOUT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, REALLY BELIEVES IT, OR IS BOLSTERING HIS CASE FOR INCREASED ARMAMENTS. IT PROBABLY A BIT OF ALL THREE.

HELMS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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